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SENATE PASSES SWEEPING TAX BILL

LAST-MINUTE CHANGES WILL FORCE HOUSE TO REVOTE

Trump is expected to sign the bill before Christmas

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON • Jubilant Republicans pushed on Tuesday to the verge of the most sweeping rewrite of the nation's tax laws in more than three decades, a deeply unpopular bill they insist Americans will learn to love when they see their paychecks in the new year. President Donald Trump cheered the lawmakers on, eager to claim his first major legislative accomplishment.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., who has worked years toward the goal of revamping the tax code, gleefully pounded the gavel on the final House vote, but then it turned out it wasn't

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BUSINESS CUTS ARE PERMANENT, NOT SO FOR INDIVIDUALS

Permanently slashes tax rate for corporations to 21 percent from 35 percent. Tax cuts for individuals and families expire in 2026.

STATE AND LOCAL TAX DEDUCTIONS WILL BE CAPPED FOR SOME

Imposes $10,000 cap on federal deduction used in connection with state and local income, property and sales taxes.

RESTORES TAX BENEFITS STRIPPED FROM EARLIER VERSIONS

Restores some tax benefits, including deductions for medical expenses and interest paid on student loans.

DEFICIT WILL GROW

Projected to add $1.46 trillion to the nation's $20 trillion debt over a decade. If cuts don't expire, deficits would rise more.

CHILD TAX CREDIT RISES

$1,000-per-child tax credit doubles to $2,000, with up to $1,400 available in IRS refunds for families who owe little or no taxes.

OBAMACARE PROVISION

Repeals the part of the health care law that requires all Americans to carry health insurance or face a tax penalty.

NICKLAUS: Tax-cut bill falls short of GOP promises > A16 • **ANALYSIS:** GOP's Tea Party promises are dashed > A6

County Council passes trimmed budget

Stenger did not stay for vote; his plan was cut by $31 million

BY JEREMY KOHLER
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

CLAYTON • The St. Louis County Council gave final approval on Tuesday to a budget that will cut $31 million in spending next year from the $696 million that County Executive Steve Stenger had sought.

The council voted 6-1 for final approval, with 5th District Councilman Pat Dolan in dissent. The cuts were part of legislation filed last week in a surprise move by Council Chairman Sam Page that was more about the council taking control of spending than cutting programs.

In its final meeting of the year, the council finalized a veto-proof move

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'CHARLES IS OUR GUY'

DAVID CARSON • dcarson@post-dispatch.com

Notre Dame High School freshman girls basketball team members Grace Corzine (left) and Mackenzie Thompson help Charles Tabor up the stairs to take his seat in the gym at the school on Dec. 5. He has been a regular at school events since 1998.

BY DOUG MOORE
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The basketball team at Notre Dame High School ran through its drills on the high-gloss court. Music — the loud stuff that teens like but older adults such as Charles Tabor don't appreciate — boomed, pumping adrenaline for layups and three-point attempts.

Tabor, 77, sat on the first row of the gymnasium bleachers, waiting for the home team to take on Ursuline Academy. He has been a regular at this courtside seat since 1998. With the help of his retractable white cane, Tabor can make his way from the curb, where he is dropped off by a Call-A-Ride van, into the school. But as soon as

Notre Dame's No. 1 booster attended a holiday show 19 years ago; he's now its most beloved, ardent fan

Tabor is spotted, at least one student from this Catholic all-girls school runs out to say hello and escorts him inside.

Tabor first showed up at the small south St. Louis County school around this time 19 years ago, after hearing on the radio about a Christmas program at Notre Dame. He doesn't recall much about the holiday performance, but he does remember former athletic director Thom Champion greeting him and asking his name.

"I'm Charles Tabor," he said.

"Welcome to Notre Dame, Charles," Champion said.

"When he said that, I knew where I wanted to be," Tabor said.

A warm voice. A kind word. That was all Tabor needed to become the most loyal fan, the one everyone knows. The elderly man in the Notre Dame cap and matching letter jacket who pulls out a kazoo to

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Tax credits for low-income housing lose state funding

BY KURT ERICKSON
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

COLUMBIA, MO. • A panel led by Gov. Eric Greitens put the brakes on issuing low-income housing tax credits Tuesday, dealing a blow to supporters who say the move will drive away jobs and reduce housing opportunities for poor people.

In a decision telegraphed during a meeting last month, the Missouri Housing Development Commission voted 8-2 against using state money to match $140 million in federal low-income housing tax credits.

Greitens, a Republican newcomer, has said the action will save tens of

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St. Charles County cuts health services as nurses exit

BY BLYTHE BERNHARD
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The St. Charles County Department of Public Health canceled vaccine clinics, education programs and CPR training this fall after more than half of its nurses and a health educator resigned.

"Kids aren't getting immunizations. They're not being educated on everything from tobacco to STDs to hand-washing practices," said Brittany McNamara, a former health educator with the department who resigned in August over concerns

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